

Press Release

Unified Command
Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill

Contact: Joint Information Center
Phone: (508) 968-6440
(508) 968-6665
(508) 968-6650
(508) 968-6652
Bouchard Spokesperson: Suzanne Tavani (215) 901-8132

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Buzzard's Bay oil spill response update

CAPE COD, Mass., - The Coast Guard continues to oversee clean-up operations that involves federal, state and local agencies, and the responsible party.

The Unified Command plans to increase shoreline work crews today by 80 people, bringing the total to 330. Of this number 280 people have been assigned to clean-up operations on the western shore. An estimated 20 miles of shoreline have been impacted by oil. Tar patties and tar balls are shifting and have caused re-oiling at Mattapoissett Harbor and Sconticut Neck. Teams are being sent to clear those areas. Current weather conditions are winds out of the south at 10-15 knots with seas from 0 to 4 feet. So far, 3,000 gallons of oil and 340 cubic yards of solid oil waste have been collected, equal in volume to six tractor-trailers.

An estimated \$ 2.25 million has so far been spent on clean-up operations and is expected to increase.

Additional areas impacted by the oil spill to date are:

- Mishaum Point to Horseneck Beach
- Peases Point to Converse Point
- Demarest Lloyd Memorial State Park
- Shore Beach (Little Compton, RI)

Naushon Island has been cleared of oil.

Five fast response teams from Clean Harbors continue to respond to reports of newly impacted areas. These teams move quickly in small watercraft to clean up impacted areas to minimize damage caused by the oil.

Five skimmers are available for on-water oil recovery operations and will be directed based on the observations from the morning over flights.

Oil in other impacted areas has formed into tar patties and tar balls, and cannot be skimmed. Shoreline Clean up and Assessment Teams (SCATs) will continue to survey

the progress made at impacted shorelines, and protective booming at 15 identified sites will be maintained and monitored.

An expert with the **Massachusetts Division of Wildlife** will accompany clean up crews from Clean Harbors on Ram Island today. Ram Island is home to the endangered roseate terns. Bird and Penikese islands have also been identified as highly sensitive nesting areas, and are being protected by snare boom.

A wildlife rehabilitation facility is operating at New Bedford Wastewater Treatment Plant where **50 birds, including six plovers, are being rehabilitated. So far, 49 birds have been reported dead and 21 oiled birds have been reported.** The public should not handle oiled or dead wildlife.

- **NOTICE TO EDITORS:** There will be a media opportunity with animal rescue volunteers at the New Bedford Wastewater Treatment Plant at 2 p.m. today. Call **(617) 875-5376**

To report impacted areas or wildlife, contact the Coalition for Buzzard's Bay at **508-999-6363**.

Anyone with financial losses resulting from this spill should contact Bouchard's claims hotline at **800-995-4045**.

Questions regarding fisheries closings should be directed to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries at **508-563-1779 ext. 114**.

Shoreline Clean up and Assessment Teams are placing colored flags on impacted beaches and sensitive areas. Orange flags denote shoreline areas in need of cleanup. Yellow flags denote environmentally sensitive habitat areas. If people encounter these flags, they should not remove them.

Offloading of the remaining gallons of fuel from Bouchard barge B. No. 120 continues at the ESCO terminal. A contracted team of divers has installed a temporary patch to the tear in the barge's tank.

A forward operations center has been established in New Bedford, Mass. This office will assist in the coordination of activity in the affected communities. The Incident Command Post will be relocated to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy on Monday, May 5 in the morning.

For information regarding clean up, media should contact the Joint Information Center at **(508) 968-6440, (508) 968-6650, (508) 968-6652, or (508) 968-6665**.

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